

and front-desk person. She kept getting calls from people on the north side of Des Moines who wanted me to do something to stop prostitution in the area. Donna went to bat for them, and that is how she got her start in community casework and making connections with local law enforcement. She had a knack for bringing people and agencies together and helping them to get things done. This was the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship not only with neighborhood groups in Des Moines but with law enforcement officials all across Iowa.

Mr. President, there is an old expression that we make a living by what we make, but we make a life by what we give. For 20 years in my office, Donna gave her all for the people of Iowa. She touched countless lives. And she made a life to be proud of.

I can offer no higher praise for Donna—or anyone else, for that matter—than that she was a good, decent, and caring human being. I valued her friendship, her counsel, and her incredibly hard work. I think I speak for all of us in the Harkin Senate family in saying that we love Donna very much, and we are deeply grateful that she was a part of our lives.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK G. HECK

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I want to honor Mr. Patrick G. Heck, who is retiring this month following 23 years of dedicated Federal service. Pat has served the Finance Committee and all Americans extremely well during his eight years as tax counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, and as chief tax counsel for the past 4 years.

As a college freshman, Pat began his congressional career as a file clerk for his Congressman. Throughout his distinguished public service career, Pat's tireless dedication has earned the respect of his peers, family, and community. Pat commands the respect of both Democratic and Republican staff throughout the Senate. Pat is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center, with an LL.M. in taxation. He received his J.D. from the University of Toledo College of Law, and is a graduate of American University, with degrees in political science and economics.

Prior to joining the Finance Committee staff, Pat served as assistant counsel on the Select Revenue Subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means. While there, Pat was responsible for leading hearings on intercompany transfer pricing, Internal Revenue Service collection and enforcement. Before that, he was an attorney with the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel.

I know the members of the Senate Finance Committee join me in gratitude for Pat's sage advice on tax policy matters. His efforts have helped to shape the legislative agenda for tax administration and tax reform. He cares deeply about these issues and the effect

they have on hard-working Americans. With his ever-meticulous style, Pat has helped me to delve into the important issue of the "tax gap," energy tax incentives, tax cuts for individuals and small businesses, and taxpayer rights.

Pat also helped me develop the idea of extending the time period during which Americans could make tax-exempt contributions to help victims of the tsunami disaster in 2005. This change helped facilitate a floodgate of tax-exempt contributions for these victims.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Pat Heck for his many years of outstanding service and in wishing him well for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—WHITEWATER FOOTBALL TEAM

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, they often say that the third time is the charm, and now the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater knows why. After UW-Whitewater's football team came so close to winning the NCAA Division III National Football Championship 2 years in a row, this year they triumphed, winning the big game and becoming Division III's reigning champions. Their fantastic season marked the first Division III football championship in UW-Whitewater's history.

The hard work of the Warhawk football team culminated in a 31-21 victory over two-time defending champion Mount Union College in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl on December 15, 2007, in Salem, VA. The Warhawks bolted to an early 17-0 lead and beat back the comeback attempt of Mount Union, which had come into the game having won 37 contests in a row.

I commend Coach Lance Liepold for his dedication and hard work throughout his rookie season as head coach. I also congratulate Justin Beaver on being named the championship game's Most Outstanding Player, and the winner of the Gagliardi Trophy as the best player in Division III.

The continuing success of University of Wisconsin-Whitewater football has made the people of Wisconsin, and alumni throughout the country, very proud.●

IN HONOR OF G. RAYMOND "RAY" EMPSON

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is with great respect that I recognize G. Raymond "Ray" Empson, who for the past 11 years has served as president of the national nonprofit organization, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., and has announced his well-deserved retirement effective December 31 of this year.

Keep America Beautiful, the organization that many remember as the originator of the famous "Crying Indian" public service advertisement in

1971, has been an important part of the fabric of American communities since 1953. Rooted in a nonpartisan and "hands-on" approach to improving communities and the environment, KAB forms public-private partnerships that engage everyone in improving not just the physical beauty of their hometowns, but their economic vitality and civic engagement, as well. I am proud that the state of Connecticut is home to the organization's national headquarters in Stamford.

During Ray Empson's tenure, Keep America Beautiful has grown to over 570 local affiliate organizations in communities from coast to coast. Through his leadership, and expansion of the signature event, The Great American Cleanup, KAB and its affiliates have removed millions of tons of litter from the American landscape; planted millions of trees that improve our communities; conserved our natural resources by recycling tons of raw material; improved hiking, biking and nature trails; and most importantly, educated millions of Americans of all ages in sustainable behaviors that prevent litter and reduce waste.

Given all these accomplishments, I can't help but think of Ray Empson's retirement in bittersweet terms. While I am certainly happy for him and wish him all the best, I can't help but think what a loss it will be for the country when he steps down. I am certain, however, that his commitment to the environment and his dedication to improving the quality of life in America's communities will serve as a strong example to all those who know him and have worked with him and will guide the future leadership of KAB.

Thank you G. Raymond Empson. America is a better place because of you.●

TRIBUTE TO REEDSPORT'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, during this holiday season, my thoughts are with the countless nonprofit organizations in my State of Oregon that provide assistance to those in need. Ever since the days of the pioneers, when folks from miles around would gather for community "barn raisings," the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor has been an important part of the Oregon story.

I rise today to pay tribute to the Family Resource Center in the south coast community of Reedsport, which, over the past decade, has gained a reputation as one of Oregon's most innovative and successful community organizations. Jointly supported by Lower Umpqua Hospital and the Reedsport School District, the Family Resource Center resulted from a community brainstorming meeting to identify ways to help Reedsport area families better access services. A decade after that session, the Family Resource Center averages 550 contacts a month and serves as a model of how entities can